Glossary

A

Active white space White space used deliberately as an integral part of your design that provides structure and separates content.

Animated GIF A Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) file that is capable of storing multiple images along with timing information about the images. This means that you can build animations consisting of multiple static images that play continuously, creating the illusion of motion.

ASCII The American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) is the most common format for text files. HTML files are ASCII text files.

B

Browser-safe colors The 216 colors shared by PCs and Macintoshes. These colors display properly across both platforms without dithering.

C

Cache The browser's temporary storage area for Web pages and images. There are two types of cache: memory cache and hard drive cache.

Canvas Area The part of the browser window that displays the content of the Web page.

Cascading Style Sheets A style language, created by the W3C, that allows complete specifications of style for HTML documents. CSS allows HTML authors to use over 50 properties that affect the display of Web pages. CSS style information is contained either within an HTML document, or in external documents called style sheets.

CGI See *Common Gateway Interface*.

CGI script An application program that runs in the Common Gateway Interface (CGI). CGI scripts often are used to collect data that a user has entered in an HTML form, and then pass it to an application for processing.

Color channel One of the three basic colors in the RGB color space: red, green, or blue.

Client Software that communicates with a server. In the Web environment, the Web browser is client software.

Color depth The amount of data used to create color on a display. The three common color depths are 8-bit, 16-bit, and 24-bit. Not all displays support all color depths.

Common Gateway Interface (CGI) The communications bridge between the Internet and the server. Using programs called scripts, CGI can collect data sent by a user via the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and transfer it to a variety of data processing programs including spreadsheets, databases, or other software running on the server.

Complete URL A complete Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is an address of documents and other resources on the Web that includes the protocol the browser uses to access the file, server or domain name, the relative path, and the filename.

CSS See *Cascading Style Sheets*.

D

Deprecated elements Elements that the W3C has identified as obsolete in future releases of HTML.

Dithering This color mixing process occurs when a browser encounters a color on a Web page that it does not support. The browser is forced to mix the color. The resulting color may be grainy or unacceptable. To avoid dithering, work with browser-safe colors.

Domain name An identifying name for an organization on the Internet. The domain name is an alias for the actual numeric IP address of the server that hosts the Web site. The domain name also is part of the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address.

Dots per inch (DPI) A measure of resolution, the sharpness of a computer display. Also used to refer to the resolution capability of a computer printer.

DPI See *Dots per inch*.

E

Extensible Hypertext Markup Language (XHTML) A draft specification from the W3C for the recasting of HTML 4.0 as an application of the Extensible Markup Language (XML).

Extensible Markup Language (XML) A meta-language that allows you to create elements that meet your information needs, which significantly distinguishes it from the pre-defined elements of HTML. XML provides a format for describing structured data that can be shared by multiple applications across multiple platforms.

Extensible Style Language (XSL) A style language created by the W3C for use with the Extensible Markup Language (XML).

External style sheets ASCII text files that contain style rules written in CSS. External style sheets can be used to set styles for a large number of HTML documents.

Extranet A private part of a company's intranet that uses the Internet to share securely part of an organization's information.

F

File Transfer Protocol A standard communications protocol for transferring files over the Internet.

Font A typeface in a particular size, such as Times Roman 24-point.

Fragment A logical segment of an HTML document. You can name the segment using a fragment identifier.

Fragment identifier The use of the <A> element and NAME attribute to name a segment of an HTML file. You then can reference the fragment name in a hypertext link.

FTP See *File Transfer Protocol*.

FTP client A graphical software program that simplifies the task of transferring files using FTP.

G

GIF See *Graphics Interchange Format*.

Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) The Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) is designed for online delivery of graphics. The color depth of GIF is 8-bit, allowing a palette of no more than 256 colors. The GIF file format excels at compressing and displaying flat color areas, making it the logical choice for line art and graphics with simple colors.

Grid A layout device that organizes the Web page, providing visual consistency.

H

Hexadecimal number A base-16 numbering system that uses the numbers 0-9 and then the letters A-F. Hexadecimal numbers are used to express RGB color values in HTML.

Hypertext A nonlinear way of organizing information. When you are using a hypertext system, you can skip from one related topic to another, find the information that interests you, and then return to your starting point or move on to another related topic of interest.

I

Interlacing The gradual display of a graphic in a series of passes as the data arrives in the browser. Each additional pass of data creates a clearer view of the image until the complete image is displayed. You can choose an interlacing process when you are creating GIFs.

Internet Service Provider (ISP) A company that provides Internet access and Web site hosting services to individuals and organizations.

Intranet A private collection of networks contained within an organization. Intranet users gain access to the Internet through a firewall that prevents unauthorized users from getting in to the intranet.

ISP See *Internet Service Provider*.

J

Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) or **(JPG)** A file format, commonly shortened to JPG, designed for the transfer of photographic images over the Internet. JPGs are best for photos and images that contain feathering, complex shadows, or gradations.

JPEG See *Joint Photographic Experts Group*.

JPG See *Joint Photographic Experts Group*.

L

Leading The vertical white space between lines of type. You can adjust leading with the CSS Line-Height property.

Lossless compression A file compression method that reduces file size without the loss of any data. GIF and PNG are lossless file formats.

Lossy compression A file compression method that discards some data in order to gain a smaller file size. The difference in quality of the resulting file is not that noticeable on a computer display. JPG is a lossy file format.

M

Markup language A structured language that lets you identify common elements of a document such as headings, paragraphs, and lists.

Meta-language A language that lets you describe the characteristics of a markup language. The Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a meta-language.

N

Non-dithering Web palette The basic Web palette that contains 216 non-dithering colors. The 216 colors are shared by PCs and Macintoshes and often are called browser-safe colors.

P

Parser A program built into a browser that interprets the markup tags in an HTML file and displays the results in the canvas area of the browser interface.

Partial URL A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that omits the protocol and server name, and only specifies the path to the file relative to one another on the same server.

Pica A printing measurement unit, equal to 12 points. Picas are a valid measurement unit in Cascading Style Sheets; abbreviated as "pc."

Pixel The unit of measurement on a computer display. The number of pixels on the display is based on the screen resolution chosen by the user. Pixels are a valid measurement unit in Cascading Style Sheets; abbreviated as "px."

Plug-ins Helper applications that assist a browser in rendering a special effect.

PNG See *Portable Network Graphics*.

Point A printing measurement unit, equal to $1/72^{nd}$ of an inch. Points are a valid measurement unit in Cascading Style Sheets; abbreviated as "pt."

Points of Presence (**POP**) Dial-up access points to your service provider's network. Your service provider should have at least one POP available so you can dial a local number to get access. Major ISPs such as AT&T have POPs throughout the United States, where a local ISP only will cover the area that includes their subscriber base.

POP See *Points of Presence*.

POP3 See *Post Office Protocol 3*.

Portable Network Graphic (**PNG**) A graphics file format for the Web that supports many of the same features as GIF.

Post Office Protocol 3 (POP3) A client/server protocol that allows an Internet server to receive and hold e-mail.

Progressive display The gradual display of a graphic in a series of passes as the data arrives in the browser. Each additional pass of data creates a clearer view of the image until the complete image is displayed.

Progressive JPG A form of the JPG file format that progressively displays the image in a series of passes as the data arrives in the browser.

R

RGB color space The three basic colors of red, green, and blue that computers use to display color.

S

Screen resolution The horizontal and vertical height and width of the computer screen in pixels. The three most common screen resolutions (traditionally expressed as width × height) are 640 × 480, 800 × 600, and 1024 × 768.

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Communications software that allows transmission of encrypted secure messages over the Internet.

Server The name for a computer that runs server software. Server software allows other computers, called clients, to interact with the server to access data. In the Web environment, servers answer requests from client Web browsers for HTML pages and other data.

SGML See *Standard Generalized Markup Language*.

Shareware Software that is distributed free so users can try before they buy. Users then can register the software for a relatively small fee compared to software produced commercially. Shareware usually is developed by individuals or very small software companies, so registering the software is important.

Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) A standard system for specifying document structure using markup tags.

Style sheet An ASCII text file that contains style information for HTML documents, written in either Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) or Extensible Style Language (XSL).

Structured Query Language (SQL) A programming language that lets you select information from a database.

T

Typeface The name of type family, such as Times Roman or Futura Condensed.

U

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) The global address of documents and other resources on the Web.

W

W3C See *World Wide Web Consortium*.

Web hosting service Commercial service that provides Web server space only and may be more capable of hosting a more complex commercial site. This service does not include Internet access.

Web Server A computer connected to the Internet that runs server software. The software lets the computer use the Hypertext Transfer Protocol to serve HTML files to Web browser clients.

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Founded in 1994 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to standardize HTML. The W3C, led by Tim Berners-Lee, sets standards for HTML and provides an open, non-proprietary forum for industry and academic representatives to add to the evolution of HTML.

X

XHTML See *Extensible Hypertext Markup Language*.

XML See *Extensible Markup Language*.

XSL See *Extensible Style Language*.